**Statement**

**Allegations on JAG's Impartiality**

The issues raised in the news item referred to have been duly examined by the concerned agencies of Army Headquarters and action has been taken thereon in accordance with the rules.

The allegation levelled by the news paper that the 'internal investigations have proved beyond reasonable doubt that the legal advice rendered by JAG officers has often been highly questionable and even driven by monetary and other extraneous considerations' has largely been found to be untrue. JAG's office did not recommend any leniency to be shown to any of the departmental officers if found blameworthy.

Military judicial system, like any other judicial system, is under constant review. Amendments thereto are effected from time to time as required. The system has inherent and inbuilt accountability of all concerned.

**Acquisition of military equipment from Russia at friendship price**

4167. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that for acquisition of military equipment the friendship price from Russia is now not available;

(b) Whether for acquisition of the equipment, Global tenders would be floated and no advance payment would be made for future acquisitions; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (c) India enjoys a special relationship with Russia and there is substantial import of military equipment from that country Progressively, the prices being offered by Russian vendors are increasing but they are still competitive with prices of similar equipments from other countries. Requests for proposals are issued to all possible manufacturers who can meet the requirement of the Armed Forces. Payment of advance is a factor of ultimate price and is one of the points of negotiations with the vendors. Advance is agreed to in the Price Negotiation Committee if the vendor offers commensurate reduction in prices.